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line, the Annulosa, to the Arthropoda, culminating in the higher insects. Here this branch appears to cease and is wholly separated from any of the higher forms of animal life. Here Prof. Thomas believed was a true discontinuity.

On the other hand, starting near the same point, was another branch embracing the mollusca.

The great vertebrate line, instead of originating from any of the higher forms of either of these branches, was supposed to arise directly or through a few transitional forms out of the Tunicata, the ascidian form.

There are many diverging branches, and as it appeared to be a law that no diverging line ever returned to the main stem or coalesced with another there must be discontinuities. No evolutionist can admit that there are any absolute gaps or breaks in the line of development, as this would be fatal to his theory. The line must be continuous or the theory must fall to the ground.

Mr. MASON said that phenomena might be associated in such groups as to be habitually observed together. Now, the mind being turned for a while toward one part of a group, returns to find a great change. There has been a discontinuity. Let us further illustrate. If we were studying Indian pottery, we should want to investigate the material, the implements, the agent, the process, the finished product, and the design, or final cause. Here are six sets of entirely different observations, the discontinuance of any one of which would produce an apparent discontinuity in the final result. The material might give out; it might be replaced by other material; new tools might be invented or imparted. The change of social order might throw the industry into other hands, as for instance, potters might become men instead of women. The introduction of varied processes, the multiplication of functions by the increase of wants would bring about the same result. The disconnections are apparent therefore, they are not real. In short, discontinuity anywhere either in natural or social phenomena is impossible.

EIGHTY-FIRST REGULAR MEETING, April 1, 1884.

Dr. ROBERT FLETCHER, Vice-President, in the Chair.

The Secretary of the Council announced the election of the following members:

Prince Roland Bonaparte, St. Cloud, France; Prof. A. Poniatovsky, Sec. Imperial Russian Archæol. Soc., St. Petersburg; Dr. Enrico Giglioli, V.-Pres., Anthropological Soc., Florence, Italy; Prof. Johannes Ranke, Editor Correspondenz-Blatt, German Anthropological Soc., and Sec. Anthropological Soc., Munich.

A paper entitled "RECENT INDIAN GRAVES IN KANSAS," prepared by Dr. ALTON H. THOMPSON, of Topeka, Kansas, was read by Colonel SEELY.

ABSTRACT.

The writer in 1879 assisted in the examination of four graves in an old burial ground connected with the mission to the Pottawatomies, six miles west of Topeka. The ground appears to have been the site of a former Indian village, believed by some to have been occupied by Crows. Careful inquiry, however, makes the identity of these people with that tribe very doubtful. Three of the graves were accurately oriented, the fourth being much inclined, as if made when the sun was at its northern limit. Besides the bones the first grave yielded quite a number of metal ornaments, consisting of disks of rolled silver with stamped perforations and incised ornamentation, small silver buckles, and pieces of chains like cheap brass watch-chains, all evidently of white manufacture. The traders say that it was formerly common to receive designs from the Indians, from which ornaments were made and furnished to those who had ordered them. Sometimes they also procured sheets of brass and silver, which they worked according to their fancy. Silver coins, particularly the old Spanish dollars, were often beaten out by the Indians into disks, and ornamented.

The condition of the remains in the first grave indicated it to be much more ancient than the others. No trace of clothing or of any enclosure for the body appeared. In the second, a fracture in the skull showed that the person had probably met death by violence.

The body had been enclosed in a hollow log or in bark. In this, and in the third and fourth graves, leather leggings, blankets of white manufacture, and a silk handkerchief were found, all much decomposed.

The skulls were all of true Indian type. The writer proposes to continue his researches in this interesting locality.

DISCUSSION.

Prof. THOMAS said that the paper was valuable as tending to throw light on the subject of intrusive burial and mentioned in connection therewith some recent finds in Wisconsin.

Mr. PROUDFET said that he had obtained from an Indian grave in Southwestern Iowa silver disks similar to those mentioned by Dr. Thompson.

Dr. FLETCHER, referring to the flattening noticed in certain skulls exhumed by Dr. Thompson, expressed the belief that such condition was probably not due to pressure in burial.

Colonel SEELY said that from what we now know it is evident that the savage was far more than a straggler in the wilderness. The remains of various ritualistic systems suggests a more elaborate conception in such matters than is consistent with notions previously entertained concerning the savage state. As illustrating this line of inquiry Col. Seely read an extract from the Gippsland Mercury, for January, 1884, giving an account of certain aboriginal ceremonies witnessed by A. W. Howitt on the occasion of admission of the youths of the Kurnai tribe to the dignity of manhood.

EIGHTY-SECOND REGULAR MEETING, April 15, 1884.

Major J. W. POWELL, President, in the Chair.

The Curator reported the following gift: Final report of the Anthropometric Committee of the British Association.

A vote of thanks was passed to the donors.

Dr. J. M. GREGORY read a paper on the "ELEMENTS OF MODERN CIVILIZATION."

Civilization is the supreme fact in sociology. It is the comprehensive name of all that marks progress and well-being in society and states. It is also the highest criterion by which to test the value of social institutions. Whatever promotes civilization we pronounce good and useful; whatever abases or destroys it is bad.

What is civilization? What are the essential elements of which it is composed, and by which it may be described? These are questions which confront the student of sociology at the outset of his studies.